

COUNCIL ORIENTATION MINUTES

College Park City Council
Saturday, December 14, 2019
Davis Hall, 9217 51st Avenue
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Wojahn; Councilmembers Kabir, Kennedy, Brennan, Dennis, Day, Rigg, Mackie and Mitchell.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Somers, City Manager; Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Terrie Glass, Zelos. City Attorney Suellen Ferguson attended a portion of the meeting.

1. Presentation – legal matters: Ms. Ferguson presented on legal matters that the Mayor and Councilmembers may face as members of the elected body and answered questions.
2. Governance:
 - A. Team Building:
 - The balance between teamwork and “One Voice” when there are different voices in the community
 - The need for a better understanding of the issues and better marketing to the community
 - Complexity of some issues; relying on staff
 - Speaking up; controlling emotions
 - Having the courage of convictions; don’t respond to the loudest voice.
 - Learning to forge consensus; allow all ideas to come forward.
 - More effective outward communication
 - Foster an environment for more discussion and debate at the dais
 - Revise question process during Worksessions to allow a more direct conversation to occur.
 - B. “Roles and Responsibilities” in the organization:
 - Mayor
 - Councilmembers
 - City Manager
 - City Attorney
3. Working Productively as a Council: Council discussed John Carver and Miriam Carver’s Guidance on Policy Making and Keeping Council Focused on Higher Level Concerns:
 - Keeping the appropriate focus as a Council – avoiding operational details.
 - Concept of “One Voice”
 - Create policies that are maximally broad AND within which the City Manager could make any reasonable decision
 - If Council creates a policy and then, in practice, Council realizes that greater constraints are needed or more autonomy is needed, the policy can be revised.

4. Wrap up/Next Steps

- Develop a policy to clarify the role between the City Manager and City Attorney on review/approval of contracts/legal agreements.

Janeen S. Miller
City Clerk

Date
Approved